



DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Department of Health and Family Services

Date: May 8, 2006

To: County Directors
Tribal Chairpersons
County Foster Care Coordinators

From: Burnie Bridge
Administrator

Subject: Foster Family Month

Throughout the month of May, we encourage you to take the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the incredible difference that foster families make in the lives of children and families in our state. As the Administrator of the Division of Children and Family Services, I am continually impressed by the commitment and caring of both foster families and professionals who dedicate their time and efforts to provide safe and supportive homes for children.

As part of Foster Family Month this may, we are excited to announce the kick-off of a new statewide recruitment campaign: **"Live Deeper. Love Wider. Leave Bigger. Become a Foster Parent."** Our theme aims to encourage people who have been considering becoming a foster parent to take the next step. The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, in partnership with the Department of Health and Family Services, is coordinating the campaign and has developed brochures and billboards for the first stage of this effort. For more information about the recruitment campaign or to order brochures, please contact the Resource Center by phone 1-800-947-8074 or by email at info@wifostercareandadoption.org. Please also take a moment to visit the Resource Center's updated website at www.wifostercareandadoption.org.

This month, Governor Jim Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle will once again be sending letters to all foster parents in Wisconsin in appreciation for the important role they play in caring for abused and/or neglected children. DCFS staff is working with the Department of Health and Family Services' Area Administration offices to distribute the letters and to obtain current mailing labels from your staff for all of your licensed foster homes. If you have any questions about the mailing, please contact your Area Administration Office.

DCFS will be posting Foster Family Month documents on our Foster Care web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/children/foster>. Under the Program/Services Information link, you will find an additional link to Foster Family Month Resources. We will have available Governor Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle's letter to foster families, the Governor's proclamation of May as Foster Family Month, and a press release announcing May as Foster Family Month. The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center will be posting information about local foster family recognition events across the state on their web site, as well.

Thank you for all of the work you do to recruit, train, and support foster families across our state. You are truly making a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in Wisconsin.